

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IGA-02 EB-07 /077 W

----- 029475

P R 121040Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8925

INFO USCINCEUR

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. DURING CALL ON FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO APRIL 8 FOR OTHER REASONS AT AMBASSADOR'S INITIATIVE, KIFLE RAISED THREE POINTS INVOLVING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ASKED FOR AMBASSADOR'S HELP. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MOD, KIFLE BROUGHT UP AIR 9B MISSILES, AIM 9J MISSILES AND FY '76 FMS CREDIT.

A. AIM 9B MISSILES. KIFLE, AFTER NOTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR AIM 9B MISSILES BEGAN ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, REMINDED US THAT MISSILES WERE STILL NOT OPERATIONAL AND THAT TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS AND PILOTS HAD CONSEQUENTLY BEEN DELAYED. JUNE NOW SEEMED BE EARLIEST MONTH WHEN EPMG COULD EXPECT MISSILES BE IN SERVICE. EPMG WOULD HAVE TO USE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MISSILES (HE SAID HALF) FOR TRAINING, AND WOULD THEREFORE WANT MORE. MOD UNDERSTOOD THAT AIM 9B WAS BEING PHASED OUT OF PRODUCTION AND THAT ONLY LIMITED NUMBER REMAINED IN STATES, WHICH HE ESTIMATED AT 50-100, AND COULD THESE BE "GIVEN" TO ETHIOPIA? AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER KIFLE MEANT A FURTHER PURCHASE OF THESE MISSILES, AND KIFLE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY.

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B. AIM 9J MISSILES. SINCE AIM 9B MISSILES WILL BE TRANSITIONAL WEAPONS FOR ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE, ETHIOPIA NEEDS A SUCCESSOR. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN AIM 9J, BUT UNDERSTAND USG CONSIDERS IT CLASSIFIED WEAPON AND THAT WAIVER ON NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY BY STATE DEPT WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE EPMG CAN PURSUE ITS INTEREST FURTHER. WOULD STATE DEPT PLEASE OBTAIN WAIVER?

C. FY '76 FMS CREDIT. MOD APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT FY '76 MAP FOR ETHIOPIA WILL BE SMALLER THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS THAT MUST BE BORNE BY EPMG WILL BE HIGHER FOR END USE ITEMS. MORE CREDIT WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED FOR NEXT "COUPLE OF YEARS." COULD CREDIT IN ADDITION TO DOLS 10 MILLION PROGRAMMED FOR FY '76 BE MADE AVAILABLE?

2. AMB PROMISED FORWARD ALL THREE REQUESTS TO DEPT. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND CONCERNING REQUESTS (A) AND (B) FOR DEPT'S AND DOD'S CONSIDERATION IN FORMULATING REPLY:

A. AIM 9B. AS DEPT IS AWARE, THIS CASE HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT DUE TO PROLONGED DELAY IN DELIVERY OF RESIDUAL COMPONENTS AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO PERMIT COMMENCEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, CHECK-OUT AND TRAINING PREPARATORY TO OPERATIONAL STATUS. ITEMS REMAINING TO BE DELIVERED HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO BE BROUGHT IN JUNE BY THE USAF MTT ON A LOAN BASIS FROM USAF INVENTORY FOR THE PURPOSE GETTING ASSEMBLY, ETC. STARTED. REPEATEDLY OVER THE PAST YEAR, EPMG HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION VIA THE MAAG REGARDING PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL AIM 9B MISSILES, ALWAYS WITH SAME RESULT - USAF ADVISES NO MORE AVAILABLE AND PRODUCTION LONG SINCE DISCONTINUED. DURING GEN. AFEWERK'S RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT, HOWEVER, HE WAS APPARENTLY ADVISED THAT THERE ARE ANYWHERE FROM 8 TO 100 THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE MADE AVAILABLE. WHETHER IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR THE EPMG TO PURCHASE MORE AIM 9BS, IF AVAILABLE, WOULD SEEM TO DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF AIM 9J MISSILES.

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B. AIM 9J. EPMG HAS LONG EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE LIMITED DURATION CAPABILITY IT WILL HAVE IN LIGHT OF THE SMALL NUMBER (126) OF AIM 9B MISSILES AVAILABLE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THESE BEING REQUIRED FOR TRAINING. IT HAS, THEREFORE, FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING MORE AIM 9BS AND/OR THE FOLLOW-ON AIM 9J. GIVEN THE REPEATED RESPONSE THAT AIM 9B IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AND THAT PROVISION OF AIM

9J WOULD REQUIRE A WAIVER TO THE NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY, MAAG HAS ADVISED ETAF ANDMOND ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS HOW TO GO ABOUT REQUESTING SUCH WAIVER, EITHER THROUGH ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY OR THROUGH MAAG TO DOD. THIS ADVICE WAS REPEATED TO GEN. AFEWERK AT HIS REQUEST JUST PRIOR TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IN THE MEANTIME, CMAAG LEARNED, FROM PRESENTATION OF AF DIV OF MIL ASST AND SALES AT THE ANNUAL EUCOM SECURITY ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE 30 MAR-1 APR 76, THAT USAF HAS PLAN TO MAKE THE AIM 9J MISSILE AVAILABLE TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE COUNTRIES AND HAS OR SHORTLY WILL HAVE A TEAM AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL TO INTERESTED MAAG COUNTRIES TO BRIEF DETAILS. IN LIGHT OF EPMG REQUEST FOR AIM 9J, AF TEAM'S VISIT TO ADDIS AT EARLIEST TIME WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE.

3. AMB AND CMAAG WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLYING TO FONMIN AND MOD ON ABOVE REQUESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS04358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760137-0705
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760473/aaaackho.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006